

AUG 25 1999

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## CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • ONE CITY HALL PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

NANCY J. NADEL  
Councilmember  
District #3

(510) 238-7003  
FAX (510) 238-6129

**August 26, 1999    Public Hearing CalFed Bay-Delta Plan  
Statement of Councilmember Nancy J. Nadel  
Representing District 3, City of Oakland**

**Welcome to Oakland and to the Third Council District. I am sorry that I am not able to be here in person tonight. This is the period of Council recess and retreat. Thank you for the opportunity to have my statement presented.**

**I wish to reiterate each of the comments which I submitted on April 23, 1998. During my years of technical study in the field of water resources, it was very clear that restoration of the estuarine resource of the San Francisco Bay and Delta must be accomplished for the future of all Californians.**

**It is also clear that more construction of concrete facilities is NOT the solution!**

**The construction of a peripheral canal project added to the June revision is very disturbing, particularly because it was not in the December draft and therefore was not sufficiently commented upon.**

**Once again, the plan is not proposing the needed and achievable efficiencies as an expectation of the agriculture industries. The process should also require the type of residential water meter project in the Central Valley communities so successfully modeled by the City of Davis. Using Proposition 82 funding, Davis has estimated that the project will eventually reduce per capita water consumption by 20 percent. Demand reduction and conservation must continue to be the centerpieces of any plan. No municipality in California should have unmetered water service.**

**The Oakland City Council will be considering a resolution supporting the Protection of the San Francisco Bay/Delta Estuary, which will call for the incorporation of three essential elements in the CalFed process.**

- **A guarantee that there will be adequate freshwater flows into the Bay**
- **Water Conservation by all users**
- **A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts**

**Let me again state my firm opposition to the waste of billions of taxpayer dollars on new canals and dams.**

AUG 26 1999

April 23, 1998

Statement of Nancy J. Nadel

Councilmember, District 3, City of Oakland

Re: CALFED public hearing on the

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/  
Environmental Impact Report

Thank you for the opportunity to present some brief comments, and to raise significant questions with regard to the Draft document.

I am the elected representative for a district in Oakland which includes all of the Maritime Port of Oakland facilities, the Oakland-Alameda Estuary, the Lake Merritt Channel, and the soon to be converted U.S. Navy and Army bases bordering the San Francisco Bay.

Many of you may know that for eight years, I represented the City of Alameda and a large part of the City of Oakland as a director of the East Bay Municipal Utility District. In my profession as a geophysicist I was employed by the Environmental Protection Agency of the United States.

During my years of technical study in the field of water resources, it was very clear that restoration of the estuarian resource of the San Francisco Bay and the Delta must be accomplished for the future of all Californians.

What is also clear is that more construction of concrete facilities is not the solution.

A major failure of the Draft is that it does not propose needed and achievable efficiencies as an expectation of the agriculture industry. This industry can achieve more significant savings and should be expected to do so. Important examples already exist to be modeled.

Demand reduction must be a primary task of any agreement. Both agriculture and urban users have made water conservation a cornerstone of future programs. That emphasis must be required.

The draft falls far short of any adequate proposal for groundwater storage and recharging of the many depleted Central Valley Aquifers. The extensive work done by EBMUD in its 1994 management plan demonstrates realistic positive solutions. Underground storage must be our first preference over unreliable and potentially unsafe new and existing constructed reservoir facilities. Reservoirs do not guarantee true reliability or long term supply. We must recognize that many of these facilities are in danger of earthquake damage at some time in the future.

As population pressures mount upstream and in the Central Valley, non structural innovation, demand reduction, conservation, and ground water storage are the real solutions for the future.

**OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL****RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ C. M. S.****INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER NADAL****A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY/DELTA ESTUARY AND CALLING FOR ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO FUTURE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS UNDERTAKEN BY THE CALFED PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the health of the San Francisco Bay/Delta estuary and the diverse ecosystems it supports are fundamental to the environmental well being of the entire Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, much of the Bay Area's economic vitality is supported by the Bay/Delta estuary, including industries such as tourism, recreational and commercial fishing; and

WHEREAS, the Bay/Delta estuary's health is in rapid decline, manifested by various indicators including dramatic reductions in fish populations, and due to a variety of devastating impacts, including the diversion of over 50 percent of its flows from the watershed's rivers, the loss of over 85 percent of historic wetlands, and the discharge of 40,000 tons of pollutants into the Bay; and

WHEREAS, since 1994 the Federal Government and the State of California, in conjunction with agricultural, urban and environmental stakeholders, have undertaken an effort to address the remarkably complex water resource issues of the Bay/Delta ecosystem through a process known as CalFed; and

WHEREAS, in the CalFed process the current public comment period of the Draft Programmatic EIR/EIS provides a critical opportunity for input on the issues affecting the San Francisco Bay/Delta estuary; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Oakland City Council does hereby identify that the following essential elements must be incorporated into future policies and programs undertaken by the CalFed process:

- A guarantee that there will be adequate freshwater flows into the Bay – The San Francisco Bay/Delta estuary's historic freshwater flows have been reduced by half. Currently there exists a need for science-based standards that establish minimum flows of freshwater into the Bay. Adequate flows will benefit the entire estuary in diverse ways, including improving water quality, supporting biological diversity, and the health of all of the Bay/Delta estuary's ecosystems.
- Water conservation by all users – Equitable water conservation practices must be required and enforced for all users throughout California. Managing demand through conservation practices and greater water use efficiency can eliminate or substantially reduce the need to construct new storage facilities. Until conservation practices and demand management

have been implemented and monitored, the construction of new storage facilities should not be initiated.

- A fair share of funding for Bay Area environmental restoration efforts – The EPA's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), BCDC's San Francisco Bay Plan, and the RWQCB's Bay Basin Plan all establish numerous beneficial measures that must be taken to protect and restore habitat and improve fish and wildlife in the Bay Delta estuary. Of the most recent funding package only 5% came to projects in the region. Funding to implement these recommended programs must be brought up to levels that are appropriately proportional to budgets for environmental restoration in other part of the State.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

AYES– BRUNNER, CHANG, DE LA FUENTE, MILEY, NADEL, REID, RUSSO, SPEES AND  
PRESIDENT HARRIS

NOES–

ABSENT–

ABSTENTION–

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

CEDA FLOYD  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council  
of the City of Oakland, California

# Residential Water Meter Project in the Central Valley

by Arturo Carvajal and Jacques DeBra

In 1997, the City of Davis' Proposition 82 water meter retrofit project was completed. To perfect the project, the City recently revised its utility bill format to show measured annual and current water use in terms of gallons instead of more obscure forms of measurement. In addition, with the approval of the City Council, the City established a single-family residential consumption rate effective for water consumption as of September 1998.

The City installed water meters to mitigate the costs of increasing groundwater extraction, and to battle water quality challenges as groundwater is the City's only source of potable water. The City estimates that the project will eventually reduce per capita water consumption by 20 percent (about 2,300 acre-feet annually).

"The project's target was to reduce peak demand," said Jacques DeBra, Utility Specialist for the City's Public Works Department. "Trimming the peak demand slows down the rate of draw-down and controls higher pumping costs. Not only is there added benefit of energy savings, the savings is incremental because

the City does not have to pump as much water from deeper levels. By targeting peak demand, the impact of groundwater draw-down can be decreased."

According to DeBra, "Metering has enabled the City to develop a more equitable rate structure while encouraging water conservation. Flat rates are not as equitable as metered rates." Metering can help quantify distribution system losses, such as leaks, which are often called unaccountable water. By understanding the true magnitude of water losses, the City can more

accurately determine distribution system operating cost. This cost can then be recovered by adjusting the water rates to the customers.

The project was funded by Proposition 82 (the Water Conservation Bond Law of 1988) which provides loans to local agencies for capital outlay construction projects and related feasibility studies in the areas of water conservation, groundwater recharge, and local water supply projects. Under the water conservation program, a number of agencies applied for and received financing to install water meters. The

City spent \$3.8 million to implement its water meter retrofit program; providing and installing nearly 8,000 3/4-inch, and 1-inch residential water meters throughout the community.

For more information on the Davis program, call Jacques DeBra at (530) 757-5679; e-mail [water@dcn.davis.ca.us](mailto:water@dcn.davis.ca.us). For further information on pursuing funding for similar projects through the current Proposition 204 water conservation loan program, call David Rolph at DWR (916) 445-8259; e-mail [droph@water.ca.gov](mailto:droph@water.ca.gov).

## The 3-step program was developed over two years:

- Meters were installed throughout the community.
- Metered water use was shown on customers' utility bills for a year before the City charged by volume
- The City used metered water use records to establish a more equitable rate schedule. Future rate adjustments will be required.

## Additional steps taken by the City:

- Established meter change out and replacement program to right-size meters and/or replace old worn out meters for multifamily and commercial accounts.
- Revised the utility bill in 1995 to provide customers with a one-year water use history in advance of metered rates.
- Increased public information efforts related to water conservation methods, highlighting leak detection/repair, and efficient irrigation practices.
- Contracted meter reading system-wide with touch-read meter inventory beginning in 1992.
- Identified water rate subsidies in old rate structure with single family residential not paying their fair share of system costs at the expense of commercial and multifamily customers.